

NAME:

Questions for "Anansi's Fishing Expedition"

1. Why does Anansi want someone to set fish traps with him? What adjectives would you use to describe Anansi?
2. What suggestion does Anene make about dividing up the work? Why does Anansi respond as he does?
3. What offer does Anene make about the fish they catch? Why does Anansi keep refusing Anene's offer?
4. What happens when Anansi tries to sell rotten fish traps in town? Why do the townspeople react this way?
5. What strategy does Anene use to make a fool out of Anansi?

6. There is a common saying that goes, “You can never con an honest man.” How does this saying apply to this story, particularly when looking at Anene’s actions? How is Anene able to “con” Anansi?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. The oral literature tradition consists largely of telling folk tales. Folk tales often aim to communicate moral values to a community of people, to promote one kind of behavior and condemn another kind of behavior. Why do you think so many cultures would rely on folk tales to communicate these values? What age group do you think could understand this story and its message?

### **Humor**

The main purpose of humor is to entertain people, although it can also be an important tool of persuasion. There are three basic types of humor. **Humor of situation** develops from the plot of a literary work, which may contain exaggerated or unexpected events. **Humor of character** uses exaggerated personalities to make us laugh at the flaws of human nature. **Humor of language** may include wordplay, verbal irony, exaggeration, or sarcasm.

1. Which of the three basic types of humor appear in “Anansi’s Fishing Expedition”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Which passage or event in the tale did you find the most humorous? Why?